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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,068	06/25/2001	Kyouko Chiba	520.40264X00	1773

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EXAMINER

BHATNAGAR, ANAND P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/887,068

Applicant(s)

CHIBA ET AL.

Examiner

Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06/25/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witschorik (U.S. patent 6,131,718) and Theodore-George (WO 00/05688).

Regarding claim 1: An automatic currency processing system for processing bank note using a host computer and an automatic processing apparatus (Witschorik; col. 1 lines 16-24, wherein the currency bill is read as a "bank note"), said automatic processing apparatus comprising:

a reading unit for obtaining various features of bank note being transferred (Witschorik; fig. 1 elements 50 sub n, col. 2 lines 7-10, col. 3 lines 15-20, and col. 5 lines 1-6 and 28-32, wherein the currency scanning terminal contains a validation module which has a function of reading and writing features of the currency bill);

a first communication unit for transferring the feature data obtained with said reading unit to the host computer (Witschorik; fig. 4 element 90 and col. 5 lines 1-6, wherein each currency scanning terminal contains a communication module ("a first communication unit") which transmits the data obtained by the validation unit to the security computer (read as a "host computer"));

a control unit for confirming the feature data based on the result transferred from said host computer (Witschorik; (fig. 4 element 60, wherein the control unit processes the currency bill accordingly based on the data received from the security computer ("host computer"));

wherein said host computer further comprising (Witschorik; fig. 3):

a validating unit for executing the discrimination process of bank note using the feature data transferred from said automatic processing apparatus (Witschorik; fig. 3 element 30, 120, and 140, col. 4 lines 22-26, and col. 6 lines 1-20 wherein the currency bill is authenticated by the security computer by comparing the data transferred by the currency scanning terminal to the data stored in the database of the security computer) ; and

a second communication unit for transferring the discrimination result of said validating unit to said automatic processing apparatus (Witschorik; fig. 3 element 100 and col. 5 lines 60-67).

Witschorik discloses a currency bill authentication system wherein the authentication is performed in a security computer which is at a different location than the currency scanning terminals. Witschorik does not teach the feature of a currency bill "bank note" transfer route fro transferring the currency bill for processing. Theodore-George teaches a system wherein the currency bill is transported in a route inside the check validating system to be processed (Theodore-George; fig. 5 elements 43-54 and page 7 description of fig. 5, wherein the currency is transported to the optical system to be read and

processed.). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Theodore-George to that of Witschorik because they are analogous in processing currency to determine if it is valid. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the teaching of Theodore-George to that of Witschorik in order to bring the currency in question to a location wherein the currency can be read/imaged by the read/imaging unit respectively.

Regarding claim 11: It is rejected for the same reason as claim 1 above and for the following limitation of a control unit for confirming whether or not the feature data is correct, based on the said result of validation (Witschorik; col. 6 lines 4-40).

Regarding claims 2 and 12: An automatic currency processing system wherein said communication unit executes the discrimination process for a plurality units of said automatic processing apparatus in one or a plurality of validation processing units of the host computer to return the result of discrimination to each automatic processing apparatus depending on the discrimination number added to the feature data (Witschorik; fig. 1 elements 30, 40, and 50 sub n, fig. 3 elements 100, 110 and 130, col. 3 lines 10-25, and col. 7 lines 15-30, wherein a plurality of scanning terminals are connected to the security computer. The security computer comprises of a communication module which contains a multiple communication channels. The communication module controls the communication between the different scanning terminals and the security computer. It is obvious to one skilled that each scanning terminal has a

specific device number which needs to be communicated to the security computer so that the security computer can keep track of which scanning terminal to send the comparison result to. The security computer creates a number, based on the comparison of the currency features, to be written on the currency.).

Regarding claims 3 and 13: An automatic currency processing system wherein said automatic processing apparatus transmits the feature data of each bank note to said host computer (Witschorik; col. 5 lines 1-6 and 28-38, wherein the features read by the scanning terminal are transmitted to the security computer.).

Regarding claim 4: An automatic currency processing system wherein said host computer is a server of business branch (Witschorik; col. 2 lines 1-7 and col. 4 lines 22-30, wherein the currency scanning terminals can be located at banks, i.e. the security computer must obviously be at a central location which is a server at the main business branch).

Regarding claim 5: An automatic currency processing system wherein said host computer is the host computer installed in the management center (Witschorik; col. 2 lines 1-7 and col. 4 lines 22-30, wherein the currency scanning terminals can be located at banks, stores, and the like, i.e. that the locations are flexible and the location of the security computer will depend on the locations of the currency scanning terminals which can be a management center office of the stores it is placed in.).

Regarding claims 6 and 14: An automatic currency processing system wherein said sensor unit is an optical sensor (Witschorik; col. 2 lines 13-15 and col. 3 lines 40-45).

Regarding claims 7 and 15: An automatic currency processing system wherein said feature data is the data of the optical beam reflected from or having passed said bank note (Witschorik; col. 2 lines 13-15 and col. 3 lines 40-45, if the system is an optical system it is obviously going to pick up the image from light either reflected off the currency or from light that has traveled through the currency).

Regarding claims 8 and 16: An automatic currency processing system wherein said sensor unit is a magnetic sensor (Witschorik; col. 2 lines 13-15 and col. 3 lines 40-45).

Regarding claims 9 and 17: An automatic currency processing system according wherein said sensor unit is an image sensor (Theodore-George; fig. 1 element 10 and page 5 line 9 wherein the sensor can be a video camera, i.e. a image sensor).

Regarding claims 10 and 18: An automatic currency processing system wherein said feature data is image data (Theodore-George; fig. 1 element 10 and page 5 line 9 wherein the sensor can be a video camera. Obviously, an image is taken and sent to be validated).

Regarding claim 19: It is rejected for the combination of reasons of claims 1 and 6.

Regarding claim 20: An automatic processing apparatus further comprising:

a deposit slot for depositing cash (Theodore-George; 1 element 8 and page 5 lines 9 and 10, wherein the currency is entered into the slot)

wherein said sensor unit obtains image data of the bank note deposited from said deposit slot (Theodore-George; page 5 lines 9 and 10, wherein the image of the currency is obtained after it has been placed into the slot).

Regarding claim 21. It is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 8 combined.

Regarding claim 22. It is rejected for the combination of reasons of claims 1 and 6 combined.

Regarding claim 23: It is rejected for the same reason as claims 1 and 11 above.

Regarding claim 24: It is rejected for the combination of reasons of claims 1 and 20 above.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

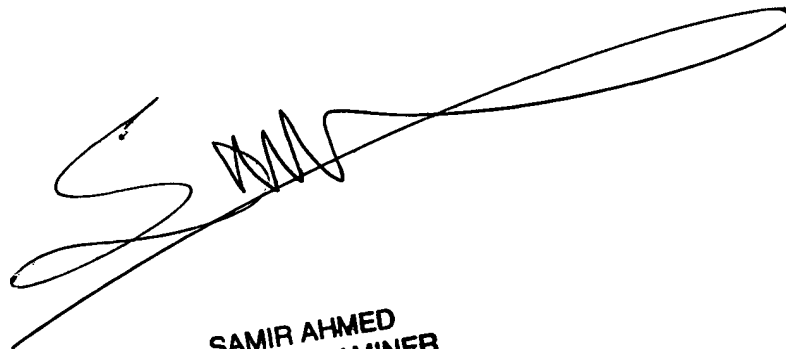
Watanbe et al. (U.S. patent 5,256,862) for a cash managing system.

Ohki et al. (U.S. patent 6,042,002) for electronic currency monitoring system.

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Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is (703) 306-5914, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is 703-308-6604, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.



**SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

AB

Anand Bhatnagar

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July 19, 2004